(c) and (d) Yes sir. This Ministry has assessed the work of NGOs and has not found any case of misutilising the Government's funds in Himachal Pradesh.

**Under-utilisation of funds by States**

2393. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States are unable to utilize the funds meant for the targeted groups; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Some States are not able to utilize funds meant for the targeted groups timely. Non-availability of matching share from the State Governments, non-submission of adequate proposals by the State Governments, and the delay in utilization of funds released earlier are among the main reasons.

**Misuse of official aircrafts in SAIL**

2394. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that top executives of SAIL are misusing official aircrafts;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the precautions taken for non-occurrence of such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) SAIL has stated that there has been no instance of misuse of its aircrafts by top executives.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Fire in VSP**

2395. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the last week of June, 2001, fire broke out in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant causing heavy loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production work in the plant has been started; and

(d) if not, by when the work will start again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was a fire in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on 29th June'2001. A few number of power and control cables of different sizes were burnt over a length of 40 meters. Estimated loss due to fire is Rs. 9.8 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Demand and Production of Domestic Steel**

†2396. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the overall domestic demand of steel and the steps taken to meet increasing domestic demand;

(b) the production of steel in the year 1999-2000 in the country and the percentage contributed by public and private sector; and

(c) the total consumption of steel products in the year 1999-2000 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The total domestic demand/apparent consumption of steel during 2000-01 has been 26.65 million tonnes (Provisional). The Indian iron and steel industry is fully capable of meeting almost all the requirements of steel in the country barring a few sizes and grades.

(b) The production of steel in the year 1999-2000 was 26.71 million tonnes. The percentage contributed by public and private sector was 42% and 58% respectively.

(c) The total consumption of finished steel during the year 1999-2000 was 25.01 million tonnes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.